

CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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Happy New Year!

Saloons of Florida passed out with the old year.

Philadelphia, city of "brotherly love," is first to indicate the presence of American bolshevism.

A letter to the Nashville Banner declares that milk at 25 cents a quart "is too low and everybody knows it."

The daily interview with the clown prince has ceased to be a headline feature.

Scan the bills as they come in to see whether they are dated Jan. 1, 1918.

The old year is dead, but it bequeathed a handfull to its young successor.

President Paderewski, of Poland, is an alliteration that is giving Berlin some concern just now.

Gubernatorial inaugurations will come thick and fast for the next few days.

The old state guard organizations have been declared dissolved, but new units will no doubt be organized.

Cousin Karl says he's much obliged, but he doesn't want to be king of Finland.

Naturally, the Lookouts would not feel at home anywhere else than in Chattanooga.

Mexican silver coins are considered worth more than the amount of money represented.

It seems to require considerably longer to get the war stopped, all around than it did to start it.

The department of justice announces that it will now proceed to get on the trail of the trusts again.

Out of sixty-two lynchings for the year just closed, Georgia claimed eighteen.

The ultimate consumer will raise no objection to the market house policy of lowering prices.

Rumania will evince her interest in democracy by holding an election early in the spring.

Clemenceau clarifies the situation. —Headline. Well, that depends considerably.

China is asking to be made the first exhibit of the new self-determination dispensation.

Before leaving England, the president invited King George to come over and see us.

It will be difficult to convince Lord Northcliffe that he didn't do it with his little newspapers.

Champ Clark is being reminded of how old he looks by those who apparently had never noticed it before.

One of the ironies of fate is seen in the disappearance of the Irish national party and the demand for Irish national independence simultaneously.

Expense of \$2,000,000,000 for December would seem to indicate that the war is still in progress and that Sherman had the right dope.

Bishop Gallor is in accord with Senator Borah. He thinks all wartime restrictions on democracy should be speedily abolished.

Ribot thinks France should have first call on indemnity money. There's hardly a doubt that France could use a considerable sum with advantage.

Chattanooga was willing to shake hands with the old year. Her greeting to the new was all that could be desired.

It is not yet known whether all of the Sinn Feins now in jail were elected to parliament, but a good many of them were.

There is probably material enough in one of these long-range "Bertie" for two or three farm tractors.

An exchange, which would not so in for an unfettered commercial intercourse with Germany, thinks we might use some of that country's potash.

The Manchester Guardian thinks the peace congress ought to begin its deliberations without further unnecessary delay. And the Guardian is right.

Richard Barth wants President Wilson to dictate a settlement for Germany. But if he will just be patient, his country will be reached in due course.

Perhaps some hesitancy about accepting Uncle Sam's program may be a sort of unconscious attempt to persuade him to underwrite allied liabilities.

English maidens, having had their fling with war work and helped their country in its time of need, are now willing to stand aside and let Tommy have his job back.

THE NEW YEAR.

The old year is dead. Its record is writ. We may study it for guidance, but cannot alter one jot or tittle. Its panorama of joys and sorrows, of comedies and tragedies, is now past. What a wonderful story it has told. A new day has dawned—a new year is before us. A new page is exposed to us, white and fair. What character of record shall we write upon it? The new day brings new responsibilities, new opportunities. And this thought recalls Judge Walter Malone's poem on Opportunity:

They do me wrong who say I come no more
When once I knock and fail to find
An open door.
For every day I stand without your door,
And bid you work, and rise to fight and win.

Will not for precious chances passed away,
Weep not for golden ages on the wane!
Each night I burn the records of the day—
At sunrise every soul is born again.

The new year beckons us forward—onward. We may drop a tear over the old, but may not linger with it. The procession moves inexorably on. Let the dead past bury its dead. The future is calling and we must respond. The year 1919 is, from a combination of circumstances, to be characteristically a forward-looking period. Farewell to the old year. Hall and welcome to the new. May it bring greater things for us individually, for Chattanooga, for America and for a tortured world. We believe it will.

BASIS OF A LEAGUE.

An ingenious suggestion is that of the London Chronicle that the peace conference be considered the first session of a body which shall reconvene from time to time in perpetuity. In this way, it is declared, the conference itself would become the germ or basis of a league of nations. The idea is one which had not heretofore occurred to us in just this shape, but it seems to comprehend some elements of practicability for all that.

This sort of scheme would obviate many of the objections which have been urged against the league of nations plan. For one thing, it would make it possible to have the beginnings very simple and elemental. It would enable a testing out of the various features proposed in an experimental way. The periodic meetings of the council could have the benefit of the experience derived from these preliminary tests and might be able to take other and more advanced steps advisedly.

In this manner, the annual, biennial or quadrennial sessions of the body could gradually become a clearinghouse for the consideration of grievances which might develop in the meantime. The different nations would be kept in close touch with each other and a mutual understanding promoted. It would become the habit to refer matters to this body, and, even though not legally binding, its decisions would very seldom be disregarded. In this way, it might prove a happy blending with the league idea.

A continuing body, like this, need not be constituted of the same personnel all the time. Each nation might—and should—have the option of changing its representatives at will. But there would always be a hold-over residue. Its legislative program, however, might be as simple or as ambitious as might be universally acceptable. It is hardly conceivable that any convention would be agreed to and ratified by the component nations which would greatly hamper the individual initiative or sovereignty of any of them.

Yet even so loose an organization would inevitably prove a great safety-valve for international passion and friction. As remarked above, it would keep the nations in touch with and acquainted with each other. It might not eventuate in an actual federation of the world. Its influence might be more negative than positive, but it would, all the same, exert a great moral restraint.

In his campaign for governor, Austin Peay predicted that the national prohibition amendment would be ratified in Tennessee before Gov. Rye retired from office. Shall the prophecy be realized?

Gen. Groener threatens that if Berlin doesn't believe itself, he will occupy it with his army. And Hindenburg goes so far, according to rumor, as to say he will support British occupation.

Newspapers are having considerable to say of the career of George H. White, recently deceased, who once served in congress from North Carolina. Mr. White's color did not accord with his name, but he formerly occupied the seat now held by Claude Kitchin.

It is announced that about 1,500 big German guns, among other trophies, have been allotted to this country and will be long be distributed among the states. Chattanooga had as well prepare a site to mount them.

Money exactions which the German army levied on Belgium are now coming back in a steady stream of gold. Bread which, under compulsion, was cast upon the waters is being gathered again.

Henry Ford's Christmas present was a dollar a day advance to about 50,000 employees.

REHABILITATION IN FRANCE.

The war was a great stimulus to man's inventive ingenuity. Some of the devices of death produced were absolutely horrifying. But the problems of peace are to be faced with some of the same genius. All of the recent belligerents have their individual problems to solve. For the most part, these are matters of reconstruction, rebuilding and rehabilitation of waste places and wrecked humanity. The earth must again be made to yield its fruit and the decimated population be recruited.

One of the ingenious reconstruction schemes which has come under our observation is a French measure which has a three-fold object: To assist the wounded or injured soldier, to develop agriculture and to recruit the population. The plan contemplates loans at 1 per cent to such injured or infirm soldiers, or widows of such men, who died in service, to finance farming and gardening operations. These loans shall be repayable in twenty-five years and are to be available for the purchase, improvement or equipment of lands for farming and gardening.

These credits, of course, are to be hedged about with proper safeguards and are to be limited to those operating on a modest scale. The twenty-five-year limit for payment is only to be allowed to those not over 35, or who will not be over 60 when the last payment is due, and a paid-up insurance policy to guarantee completion of payments in case of death before payments are finished is made a part of the contract. The loans are not to be available to those perfect physically, the purpose probably being to promote the settlement of the injured on farms instead of in cities.

As above remarked, it is the intention of the plan to encourage marriage and rearing of children. Unmarried persons who take "homestead" under this plan may be dispensed if they have not married within three years. For each child born to the homesteader under this loan plan one-half of the interest charge on the loan is remitted. Two births in the family would extinguish the interest payments, while three births would actually involve the payment of 1-3 per cent of the sum borrowed to the borrower annually. This law is already in effect and its operation will provide an interesting study for sociologists.

1919 IN CHATTANOOGA.

What ought the year 1919 see accomplished for Chattanooga? First, let us see if a unity, similar to that which has been displayed in support of the war, may not be applied to worthy local movements. Let a civic patriotism be developed, which will allow no obstacle to offer discouragement when once it has been determined that a line of policy is good for the community.

The suburban population should be brought into the city on terms which mean justice and right dealing. In the outlying territories is most of the added population in the last decade. These regions need sewers, streets, light, police and fire protection.

A broad, comprehensive plan of city building must include these regions, and the people living in them are of a high grade of civic integrity and will furnish an electorate which is desirable for the greater Chattanooga.

A beginning at least toward the removal of the railroad yards from the center of the business district ought to be made.

We must further our plans for the proper protection of Chattanooga against floods by a system of levees.

The good roads movement must be encouraged, so that the tourist may find our city of easy access, and so that our own people may get the most pleasure and health-giving recreation out of this palisade country.

We trust our street car system may be improved.

A great public auditorium, large enough to house the largest of American conventions, should be built, and in its erection tribute should be paid to the undying fame of our soldiers.

New life must be put in our civic and commercial bodies to spread the facts as to the advantages which Chattanooga offers to the manufacturer, the merchant or the office man.

Our schools must be made the very best, and every element which tends to make this a better city in which to live must be fostered.

A spirit of moderation and friendship must be inculcated between employers and employees so that we shall live in unity.

We must remember that in all social problems "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Equity must be checked at its source. The highest form of charity is that justice between man and man which enables all to maintain the pursuit of happiness.

Man plays as well as works. The best and cheapest of amusements ought to be available to the people. Let there be no "envy, malice and uncharitableness."

Every great war has emphasized the importance of Chattanooga. Here at our doors were trained thousands of soldiers. Here we made munitions which helped to win victory. We have the satisfaction of having fought a good fight and having kept the faith, and we enter on the period of peace in confidence that great as has been our role in the past it will extend and reach higher importance in the future.

You can get an airplane ticket from London to Paris for \$75; you can probably go by boat and rail for somewhat less; or you may swim the channel and walk the rest of the way, as you prefer.

OLD FEUDS MAKE PEACE DIFFICULT.

Great allowances have to be made for a nation which has won a hard and costly victory over an age-long enemy. The frontier quarrel between Teuton and Gaul is as old as history and perhaps as inevitable as the rise and fall of the tides. What is happening now is what has happened over and over again with the centuries; the only possible novelty would be to give the thrilling drama, this time a happy ending. There would be nothing new whatever in another effort to crush Germany; the new and valuable thing would be to seize the rare and wonderful chance to reconcile the enemies of 2,000 years.

The French Revolution had this inspiration more than a century ago, and went far to bring it about. If the revolution had prevailed beyond the Rhine, where a great part of the people became ardently pro-French, it may be that a lasting reconciliation could have been effected. But the revolution was put down. Germany was kept weak and divided under autocratic rule and achieved unity only by "blood and iron." Intensifying in the process the old feud with France. It was a feud due more to governments than to peoples, for whichever nation happened to have a strong government abused its neighbor shamefully; the ravages of French generals in the Palatinate have not been surpassed by the German generals in the present war. To understand this feud and the vital importance of a right settlement now it is necessary to consider the whole history of it and not merely the chapter which begins with the defeat of France in 1870—Springfield Republican.

These international and inter-racial hatreds are what make peace so difficult. Nowhere did they ever reach such fanatical fervor as among the North American Indians. It was not the white man alone who exterminated the aborigines. They were rapidly exterminating themselves. Such hatreds are not the signs of a high civilization.

The recent war has done much to accentuate the spirit of race. We see it in today's dispatches from Posen to the effect that the Poles are attacking the Jews. But when we analyze the facts as to the different peoples living in Europe, we find that language as a barrier is much more pronounced than that of blood. Nicolai, the German writer, whose recent work has just been translated into English, for the writing of which he was interned in his own country, flouts the emphasis laid on racial origin. The German people are not Teuton, he says. That race occupied only the coast of the Baltic and the North sea. The Scandinavians are Teuton, but there are more inhabitants of Slav and Gallic blood in Germany than Teuton. He shows also that the Roman occupation of Gaul and the Rhine country left its impress. The northern tribes made incursions toward the Mediterranean for centuries and the effects were very apparent. The Franks of Charlemagne were originally a German tribe, as of course were the Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

The Northern Italian is fair-haired and of Germanic origin. The Bulgars and Finns are distinct from other races of Europe, both being of Asiatic origin. But the former have become just like the Slavs and the latter very much like the Teutons. Descendants of Slavs who settled in Greece are indistinguishable from the Greeks. Environment, occupation and language have more to do with the functioning of a people than the blood in their veins. All Europeans, indeed, are of mixed blood. According to Nicolai, the only races of Europe which have been kept pure are the Jews and Gypsies.

However, the propaganda of race has set peoples against each other even where they are not of an unmixed descent.

Nevertheless, racial animosities have been known to pass away. Thackeray's novels are full of the prejudices against the French felt by the British during the Napoleonic wars and before. All that has gone. We, ourselves, have forgotten our conception of the British lion, whose tail for a hundred years we liked to twist, at any rate, on July 4. During the Civil war, south and north felt themselves actually different peoples. All that has gone.

The tendency of the present day to exaggerate the importance of race may result in Balkanizing Europe. Self-determination does not properly have any such meaning.

Are we to witness a mere readjustment of boundaries or the arriving of a new and broader point of view?

The first man who suggests that it be written "Double Nineteen" is recommended to the tender mercies of Everett True.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS

(Chicago News.)
Gabriel will play the last trumpet in the game of life.

It is useless to waste broad hints on a hard-headed man.

Confessioners must make their candles over bonbon fires.

It is never too late to learn, but we sometimes learn that too late.

Do not rest your arms on the table. Stack all your weapons in a corner before dinner.

It may take nine tailors to make a man, but one Christmas is enough to break him.

Some men sow seeds of kindness and expect to reap their reward with a moving machine.

The opposite side of the street is one of the things that never comes in the man who waits.

The dead are never sick—therefore all diseases may be classed as afflictions of the liver.

Nature unadorned is said to be adorned the most, but the bare truth isn't always a thing of beauty.

RIPLING RHYMES

By Walt Mason

Restrictions Off.

They're taking the restrictions off, and now a delegate or toff may eat what seemeth best, may pour the sugar in his tea, and eat the steak that used to be both censored and suppressed. I face the growing danger, and I move up to the growing danger and see the good old grub restored, since peace came down the pike; oh, there are pies and hard boiled ham, and prun preserves and onion jam, and all the things I like. My being was profoundly loved when war was on, and Hoover hooved, with his official seal, and as I ate my hawwood bread I sometimes tore my clothes and said, "Oh, for a good square meal I hope to live to see the day when I won't have to live on hay and fried exclamation marks!" Oh, how I'll eat the luscious things when we have canned a lot of kings, and won this beastly war! And now I face the growing danger, and I move up to the growing danger, and I see the roast beef with my sword, the sword of Bunker Hill; and there are luxuries to burn, all things for which a man might yearn—and I'm unhappy still. I can't help thinking of the skates in many war-demolished states, who cannot pick and choose; the children and the weary dames who'd like to fill their bony frames with grub like I refuse. So I feel guilty as I eat the scalloped oysters and the most, I'm rather shy on mirth; I don't enjoy the wheaten bread; as some old sage or poet said, there's no true bliss on earth. (Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

From War to Industries.

Having just come out of the worldwide war into the industrial life, there remains much to be done, and we should go forth with a new spirit and with greater determination to build up industry. The war is ended, but much work is yet to be done, for many industries have suffered greatly during these four years which have crippled industry. We stand at a new beginning, in industrial pursuits and the door of opportunity stands open for all who desire to win in building up the country. This is a constructive and industrial period of life, when all should help in building industries. Coming out of the war into the house of industry, we are laden with greater responsibility. There are many thousands of soldiers returning from across the sea, and being mustered out of the camps who must take their places in the industrial world and they should go forth to their respective places helping to make industries more productive. America has been the means of helping the allied forces to win the war which must bring freedom and right and justice to all mankind. She is the commissary for the whole world, with her millions to feed over here and many over there. Therefore, we must make our farms and industries more productive. There must be more producers than consumers in the country. Our every man should find a place in the industrial life and make good there in a much comment on what the black man should get out of the war, when there should be no comment, for he should get out of the war just what any other American citizen gets, for the principle upon which the war was fought and won will give it to him. He should after he is mustered out of the service, go to his place, be it ever so humble, and live a respectable citizen, obeying the law and working honestly in his place, building up the many industries there in the southland with his many farms and industries, honest and efficient labor is needed to make them more productive. If the south expects to retain honest and efficient labor in the various industries and on the farms and in the homes, the black man and woman must be given better wages, better treatment and better protection. This is an industrial world, and should be no conflict between capital and labor, for one is dependent on the other. There should be perfect harmony between the two, for it is said no two can walk together except they be agreed; therefore, capital and labor should agree. Capital should be fair with labor and labor should be honest and efficient. This is a reconstructive period and all of the constructive workers are called upon to get on the job and help build up industry. No time for strife, but a time for real work. Here let us join our hearts and hands in helping to build up industry at home and abroad. Hail to the skilled, cunning hand! Hail to the cultured mind, contending for the world's command! Here let us all be combined.

REV. M. W. MOORE.

Pastor Monumental Baptist church.

British View as to Russia.

(Manchester Guardian.)
The fact that the real, though unavowed reason for our previous interference in entirely different from the avowed reasons, and it is a little awkward now that the avowed reasons have disappeared to produce the real one, the more so as this is not a very nice reason, or one which is likely to commend itself to reasonable people in this country or to our work-vision was, in future, of course, is a thing of beauty.

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